

Dan Ruben  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice America  
13540 East Boundary Road  
Midlothian, VA 23112

August 29, 2016

Dear Dan Ruben:

This past summer I was the recipient of an Equal Justice America fellowship. I worked at the Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, part of the Legal Council for Health Justice, in Chicago, IL. This organization focuses on forming legal relationships with medical practices to address the legal issues of children that may be negatively impact their health. I found my experience this summer to be challenging and rewarding. I feel honored to have been to work with such a great organization, and I want to thank Equal Justice America for allowing me this opportunity.

In this position, I worked directly with clients by assisting attorneys during in-take meetings and follow up. In particular, I assisted attorneys as they went to individual educational plan meetings for students in the Chicago Public School system. These meetings involved guaranteeing the rights of students to an education. Specifically, many of the children I worked with had learning disabilities, and I helped ensure that they were receiving the proper education at school. I found this experience to be very rewarding.

Additionally, I worked with attorneys during client intake. I would go to children's hospitals and clinics in the Chicago area after they had been referred by a medical professional as having potential legal problems. In particular, I helped with the intake of a three-year-old Cantonese child who had down syndrome. At three years old, she was nonverbal despite having speech therapy at school. However, she was hearing Cantonese at home and English during her speech therapy sessions. We are still working on attempting to find her a speech therapist who also speaks Cantonese.

Working one-on-one with children and families this summer was an invaluable experience. It taught me that pursuing public interest law was the right choice for my first-year summer job. It was rewarding to know I was helping children with their medical and legal needs through direct client interaction. My fellowship through Equal Justice America enabled me to work at the Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children this summer. Without this fellowship, students like me may not be able to help their communities and build their experiences by working with public interest organizations. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Katherine Ann LaRosa  
Chicago-Kent College of Law, Class of 2018